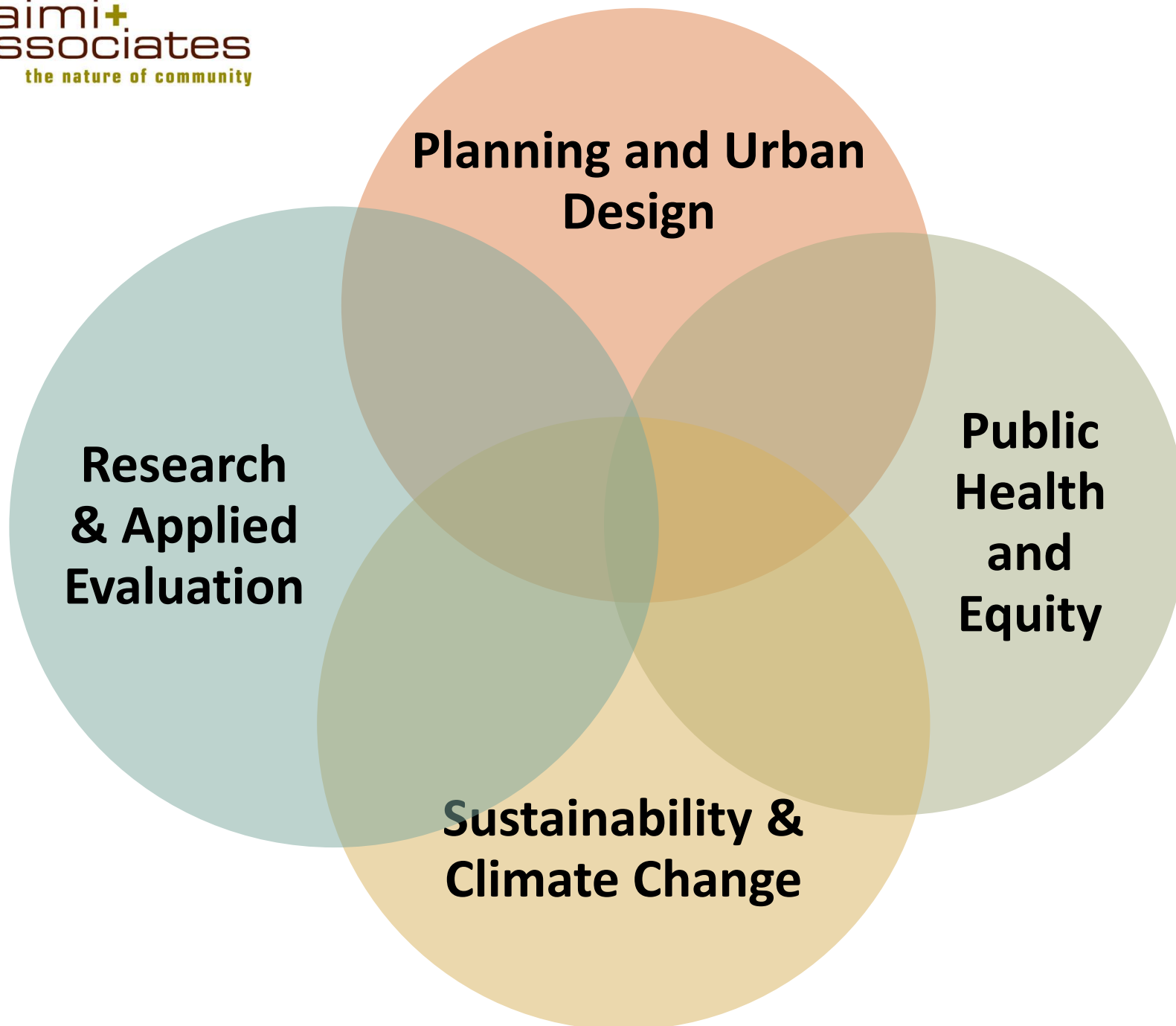


HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS

CA Office of Planning and Research
Healthy Planning Leadership Series

November 10, 2016

Matt Raimi, Raimi + Associates



A healthy food system is one that:

Ensures that all residents have access to healthy, affordable food options

Minimizes the environmental impact of food production and transport

Facilitates and encourages local food production and processing

Creates jobs that provide fair working conditions and a living wage

Benefits economies by supporting food producers, retailers and businesses

Maximizes resources through collection & reuse of organics (food waste)

Local Food System Components

1. Production
2. Processing
3. Distribution
4. Access
5. Consumption
6. Waste Recovery



Planning Tools Can Strengthen Food Systems

General plan
policies and
land use

Zoning

Ordinances

Community
based
initiatives

Programs +
regulatory and
incentives



Nine Strategies for a Healthy Food System

1. Use land use tools to preserve farmland

Urban growth boundaries

Conservation easements and land trusts

Pesticide buffers (homes and schools)

Incentives for organic practices

Clustering

Density transfer / transfer of development rights

New Jersey Ag-friendly Zoning / Land Use

- ☐ Encourages agribusiness
- ☐ Reduces the incidence of farmer-homeowner nuisance issues
- ☐ Allows farms and support businesses as permitted uses
- ☐ Reduces regulatory barriers to auxiliary farm operations (such as housing for farm labor)

<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/innovativeconservationplanning.pdf>

2. Support processing and distribution channels

- Incentives for shared regional processing infrastructure, facilities, and logistics (Food Hubs)

- Zoning and incentives for commercial kitchens, on-site small scale ag processing, and farm stands

- Mobile USDA certified slaughterhouses

- Zoning district for manufacturing, processing, and distribution of agricultural goods

Agriculture and Land Based Training Association (ALBA) *Salinas, CA*

- ▣ ALBA Organics Food Hub
 - Aggregates, markets and ships farmers' products to growing markets around California
- ▣ Farmer education course
- ▣ Organic farm incubator
- ▣ Farmers' Market Match Program (1:1 match for CalFresh participants)
- ▣ Environmental education with schools

www.albafarmers.org/

3. Grow food in public spaces

Support urban farms

- Vacant property tax incentives to allow temporary urban farms
- Urban agricultural zoning

Create community gardens

- Community gardens GP & zoning
- Public support for gardens (*public land, financial, water, etc.*)
- School gardens

Allow edible landscapes

- Fruit trees in parks and on sidewalks

Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local Plan

- ☐ Revised zoning to allow farms and urban gardens
- ☐ Promote the use of vacant city lots for green space and food production

<http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/HGB-Grow-Local-Final-Cover-1.pdf>

4. Allow people to grow/raise their own food on private property



Urban chicken and livestock ordinances



Landscape ordinance that allows food gardens in the back, side, AND front yards



New multifamily developments with community gardens plots, balcony/window gardens, and/or rooftop gardens



Facilitate surplus food harvesting

Oakland Ordinance: <http://www.spur.org/news/2014-12-07/oakland-clears-path-new-urban-agriculture>

Chicago Urban Agriculture: https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/urban_agriculturefaq.html

5. Provide access to healthy foods

Food Retail

Incentives for supermarkets

Limits on liquors and fast foods

Farmers' markets

Food Desert Alleviation

Remove regulatory barriers to new small markets (e.g., parking)

Mobile Produce Vendors ("Green Carts")

Healthy corner store conversions

Supplemental Food Programs

Increase enrollment in WIC + CalFresh and encourage retailers to accept them

Farm to school procurement program

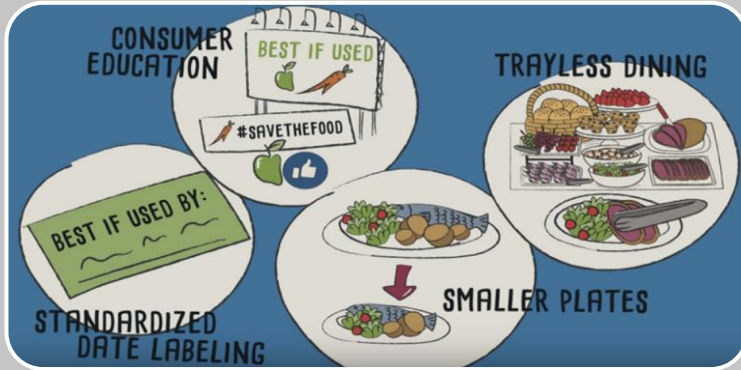
6. Create programs and incentives for healthy eating



Santa Clara County Nutrition Standards:

<http://vmcfoundation.org/vmc/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/SCC-Nutrition-Standards.pdf>

7. Reduce food waste



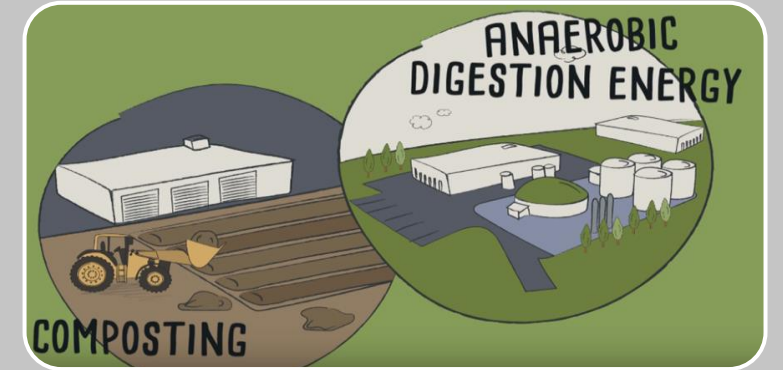
Prevention

- Standardized date labeling
- Consumer education



Food Recovery

- Encourage food bank donations through:
 - Policy
 - Tax incentives
 - Business education



Food Recycling

- Municipal and residential composting programs
 - Sell compost to local farms and give to residents
- Anaerobic digestion
 - Energy for cities + trucks

8. Take care of people in the food industry

Farmworker housing

- Allow housing on agricultural lands
- Develop affordable housing (*Napa Co. Farmworker Housing Centers*)
- Plan for seasonal / migrant workers



Fair wages and working conditions

- Farms, processing, retail, restaurants, truck drivers, etc.



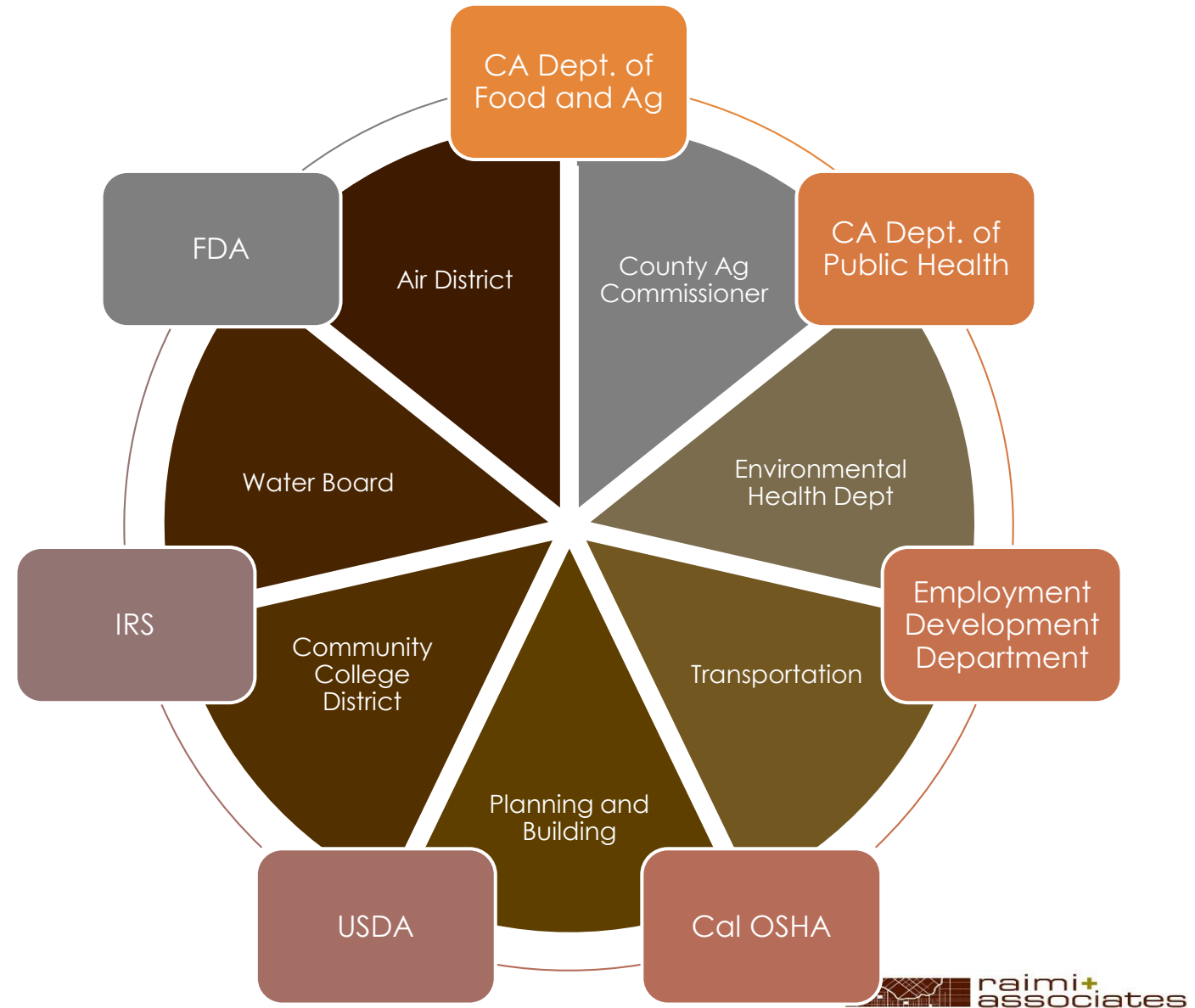
Avoid toxic exposure

- Incentives for organic farming
- Showers in workplace so workers don't expose families
- Pesticide buffers (homes and schools)



9. Build partnerships for healthy food systems

Create a food policy council and a Health in All Policies (HiAP) group focused on food



Resources

<https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/29/12/34/toward-a-healthy-sustainable-food-system>

<http://www.changelabsolutions.org/landing-page/creating-healthier-food-environments>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/255650805_Land_Use_and_Planning_for_Secure_Regional_Food_Systems

<http://ngfn.org/>

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-hubs>

<http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/>

http://www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/Documents/SCI/Topic_Overviews/Hyperlinked%20PDF%20Files/planning_to_eat_sunybuffalo.pdf

http://www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/Documents/SCI/Report_Guide/Guide_MIP_AccessToHealthyLocalFood.pdf

<http://cafreshworks.com/>

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/CESonomaAgOmbuds/files/203475.pdf>

<http://lohp.org/restaurant-workers/>

<http://www.baltimarket.org/virtual-supermarket/>

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/green-carts.page>

thank you!

Matt Raimi

510-666-1010

matt@raimiassociates.com

www.raimiassociates.com

